

After his return the last time he purchased all the lands lying on Knapps Creek up to Mount Vernon Church then standing on the farm of Andrew Herold and still standing on the same farm now owned by Richard Gibson. This tract included several thousand acres and as the records show, Moses Moore gave in exchange for it "Two steel traps and two pounds sterling money".

Rella H. Yeager

Nelle Y. McLaughlin
Second Ave.
Marlinton, W. Va.

1940.

BOCAHONTAS COUNTY
-1-

CHAPTER 4- Sec. 4- part a- Ques. 5
THE HILLSBORO COMMUNITY.

The town of Hillsboro is located in a rich and beautiful valley. It is two and one-half miles from the nearest railroad station called Seebert, and named in honor of a family by that name that settled here in the wilderness in the early days. Hillsboro was named for Richard Hill, the pioneer from North Carolina, who built his home on a good farm in the neighborhood of Lobelia. His house was an unusually good one for that age. It was built of hewed logs, and the space between the logs was filled with mortar or mud and then whitewashed. It had three porches, two tall chimneys, and eight rooms. Hills Creek was named for Mr. Hill and because of his sterling worth, will sing of his glory as long as its waters flow. The creek flows through a narrow channel which increases its velocity until it plunges over a precipice sixty or more feet and creating the falls of Hills Creek.

Bruffey's Creek named after the first settler, John Bruffey, son of Patrick Bruffey, the pioneer, a revolutionary soldier under General Wayne, unites in time to flood with Hills Creek where their waters sink under Droop Mountain to appear again in the lower end of the Little Levels. Hills Creek forms Locust Creek and empties into the Greenbrier River. Many of the numerous progeny of Richard Hill founded their homes in the Hillsboro Community.

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The majority of the people of the Hillsboro Community are of the Scotch-Irish descent, their chief pursuits being agriculture and stock raising. Many fine herds of cattle and sheep, from time immemorial, have been prepared for the eastern markets and at the present time the farmers are becoming aroused to the importance of pure bred stock.

Hillsboro has always been a religious and educational center. In extracts from the journal of Rev. Francis Asbury we find that in the years 1788, 1790 and 1796, he made three evangelistic tours through this section of the country coming up through Greenbrier County each time and being entertained and preaching at the home of McNeel in the Little Levels, going from there to the Drinnom home in the Edray neighborhood. His course led from there to Cloverlick down through Tygarts Valley in Randolph County enroute to Morgantown. At the McNeel home lively religious discussions were indulged in by the whole community.

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church was organized in the year 1793. The early records of the church were lost and no one remembers when it was built. A substantial brick structure was later built southeast of Hillsboro, where the cemetery is still kept up. The most distinguished ministers who served this church from 1820 to 1872 were Rev. Joseph Brown, Rev. Wm. G. Campbell, Rev. John S. Blain, Rev. Mitchell D. Dunlap, and Rev. D. S. Sydenstricker.

The new church, a frame building, was built in the town of Hillsboro, where the present church is now located, in the early ministry of Dr. D. S. Sydenstricker. He was

succeeded by Rev. J. C. Johnson. The frame church was torn down in 1910 and a new church was built. A new brick church now occupies the site and bears the name "Oak Grove Church" in memory of the pioneer church although surrounded by a maple grove.

In the early part of the eighteenth century a very important educational work flourished in what was then the village of Hillsboro. Under the supervision of Rev. Jos. Brown the brick Academy was built and contained one large central room and two wings. The name of Hillsboro was abandoned in deference to that of "Academy", so strong was the school's influence on the minds and hearts of the people. In recent years the old name Hillsboro has been restored to the town.

M. A. Dunlap of Poca City, Oklahoma, remembering conversations heard in the home of his uncle Rev. M. D. Dunlap, thinks the first teacher ever in the Hillsboro Community was a man by the name of Keenan, who taught more than a hundred years ago. This teacher was considered a very learned man from the fact that he could read and write, and had figured in the arithmetic as far as the rule of three. The next teacher was the Rev. John S. Blain, a Presbyterian preacher, a teacher, and a physician. Next came Rev. Joseph Brown whose gentle Christian spirit greatly endeared him to the people. It is thought that as he was instrumental in building the new brick building that he was the first teacher within its walls. Rev. M. D. Dunlap succeeded him and taught from 1835 to 1845. His school had a wide reputation among

his pupils and enjoyed the patronage of the Lewises and Irwins of Kanawha County. They were also pupils from Fayette, Greenbrier, Monroe, Bath, and Highland Counties. He taught throughout the entire year and sought the aid of the more advanced pupils, notably, Rev. Wm. T. Price and Rev. James Haines.

Mr. Kelso of Pennsylvania, and Miss Priscilla Ramsey of Augusta County, Virginia, taught one session, and after the close of school were married, and went to western Pennsylvania to conduct a boarding school. Rev. Daniel A. Penick filled the position of teacher one year, boarded at Colonel Paul McNeel's, and the following autumn married the latter's eldest daughter. Rev. Emerson taught two sessions, boarded at Colonel McNeel's and made a compass that ran a perfect line from the McNeel gate to the Academy. Miss May Sprinkle taught in the home of Colonel McNeel the first year of the Civil War and was betrothed to John Burgess the first man from this community to be killed by the Northern soldiers in their initial raid through this country.

From the foregoing, it is easy to understand why so many notable people came from this fine institution of learning. The lives of Mr. Harmanus Stulting and family deserve special mention. They were natives of Holland, and to escape religious persecution, came to this country when it was in its infancy. They were valuable additions to the social life of the community and through their piety accomplished much good in this land of their adoption. Mr. Cornelius

stulting, eldest son in the family, was a fine teacher for many years, and died not so many years ago. Mrs. Carrie Stulting Sydenstricker, a daughter of the family, gave her life as a missionary in China, being sent as a member of the Oak Grove Church. She was the wife of the missionary, Andrew Sydenstricker and the mother of the famous novelist, Pearl Buck.

The first permanent settler in the Hillsboro community was John McNeel of Frederick County, Virginia. He came here in the year 1765.

John McNeel built the White Pole Church on the hill set apart for the McNeel cemetery, the first church in the community.

In the northern section of the Hillsboro community we have Mill Point, a small industrial village, including within its limits proper a store, a blacksmith shop, two flour mills, and three homes. Just above the village is a wonderful spring. The spring gushes forth so abundantly that it forms a miniture cataract. The water is so pure and cold that it is called the Blue Spring. There is a tradition that herds of buffalo formerly gathered in the valley facing the spring and drank from this water, and that it was from the stamping of the buffalo that "Stamping Creek" derived its name. Two of the tribes of Indians that frequented this region were the Ottawas and the Shawnees. Pontiac and Cornstalk were among their leaders. The death of the Bridger boys is the most dramatic story of Indian cruelty we know of in connection with the Mill Point fort.

The people who live in the Hillsboro Community are; the McNeels, Beards, Clarks, Morrisons, Clendenens, Bruffeys, Hills, Moores, Clutters, Auldridges, Harpers, Kinnisons, Wades, Lewises, McCartys, McCoy's, Smiths, Cackleys, Ruckmans, McLaughlins, and others.

History of Edray Community
(by S. B. Moore)

Edray Community is bounded on the west by Stony Creek range of mountains; on the north by Elk Mountain, to the top of Slippery Hill on the Clover Creek road, then to the Bridger place on the Greenbrier river where Paul Sharp now lives; on the South by the top of river ridges, including the Fairview and Brush Settlements, to the top of Drinnon Ridge where the State road crosses and to Elmer Sharp's at the foot of Stony Creek Mt.

This community is about five miles wide where the State Road crosses, and ten miles long from east to west.

The Drinnons were the first settlers in Edray Community. Thomas Drinnon settled near the Edray Grave yard. There is some difference of opinion as to the exact spot where the Drinnon Cabin stood, but I feel sure it was on the bank just close to the grave yard. A spring under the bank has always, since my earliest recollection, been called the "Drinnon Spring." Other proof is an old, apple orchard, trees of large size, mostly winter apples, near the spot where the Cabin stood. My father Isaac Moore went to this orchard in the fall with the wagon for winter apples when I was a small boy, though large enough to pick apples from the ground. My uncle, Robert Moore, and his boys always called this field the "old orchard field," and it goes by that name yet. A part of this field belongs to A. R. Gay and the other part belongs to William M. Sharp's heirs, all of which once belonged to Thomas Drinnon, first settler in this community. He owned a large boundary of land several thousand acres that extended from Indian Draft to Stony Creek. Drinnon's Ridge took its name from the old settler, an everlasting monument.

Drinnon's home was broken up by the Indians. His wife was captured and taken away and murdered somewhere in Elk Mountain. Charles Drinnon a brother of Thomas Drinnon, settled near Onote. He cleared a field which bears the name "Charly Field" which is now owned by Anderson Barlow.

The Drinnons all left this country many years ago. I remember seeing James

Drinnon a member of this distinguished family. I think the Drinnons went to the northwest part of this state.

Robert Moore, my grandfather, who was captured by the Indians (see W. T, Price's History of Pocahontas for a full account of this capture). Robert Moore, Sr. once lived at the Bridger place, and reared his family there. My father, Isaac Moore, was born and raised there. One brother, Andrew, fell from a tree and was killed while other members of the family were stirring off a kettle of sugar. About 1820, Robert Moore, Sr. Moved to Edray and settled on the Drinnon holdings. He and his boys opened up a fine farm and erected a fine two story building in the Community. I believe the lumber that went into the house was sawed with the whipsaw as at that time there was no water power saw mills. The broad ax was extensively used in getting out all heavy timber for buildings. Robert Moore and his wife lived and died in the brick mansion, and were buried in the Edray Grave yard. He was born in 1768, died 1858, age 90 years. His wife was born 1771, died 1855, age 84 years. These graves were the first in the Edroy Graveyard; Robert Moore's real estate was divided with his boys and one daughter. The names of the sons were Isaac, James, William and Robert Jr. Robert received the old homestead, lived there many years and sold to J. W. Sharp about 1867 for seven thousand dollars. That included the upper part of the place, now owned by Isaac Sharp's heirs. I want to say just here, there was an old house stood about half way between the old brick house and the gate at the road. I think the old settler built and occupied this house while the brick house was being erected. When I was a small boy, elections were held in the old house. There was no ticket or ballot used. The Commissioner or "Conductor of Election" asked the voter: "Who do you vote for?"

My father Isaac Moore, settled in the woods where I now live. Father's house was a hewed log house, about 16x20 ft; shingle roof, chinked and daubed walls; one door and one window in the first story, and some in second story. The porch was on the side and stairs went up from the porch.

The soil of Edroy Community is productive. The upland is largely limestone, naturally sod, with the blue grass when sod is taken off. The flat land below the

mountains is sand stone; not as rich as the limestone and not so good for grazing, but better for farming when improved; produces well and less liable to wash from heavy rains.

As to the timber, this community has been covered with all kinds of hard wood, bass wood; some spruce high on the mountains and hemlock along the streams. Some of the most valuable timber is black walnut, ash, cherry, red oak and white oak, a great deal of which has been cut and shipped. Other hardwoods are Chestnut oak, some black oak, pink oak and sugar. There is some yellow pine on the flats.

Edroy Community can boast of the best water in the state. Both limestone and free stone. There are many bold springs around the foot of the mountains. Always flowing, never dry, namely. At Elmer Sharp's, E.K. Sharp's and also a sulphur spring at E. K. Sharp's, a bold spring at the Cochran place, at A. C. Barlow's head of Big Spring, now owned by the Bank of Marlinton and sufficient to run a grist mill with twenty foot overshot water wheel. Other bold springs at Mrs. M. K. Sharp's G. W. Mann's and Drinnon Spring at Mrs. J.W. Price's at Edray. John D. Gay owns head of Indian Draft. There are many drilled wells in the flats all good water.

Some of the first schools were taught on the old farm homes. One among the first, if not the first, was in an old house near Mrs. George Baxter's home. The house was a round log structure, clapboard roof, held in place with press poles. The fireplace took up most of one end of the house. It was made of rough stone. Chimney made of slate and mud. Now, for light, paper was pasted over cracks and greased to let in the light. Other cracks in the building were chinked and daubed. Seats were made of split logs or poles, holes bored and pins put in for legs. The term of school was about three months. The salary was one dollar per scholar a month. Writing was done with quill pens. The teacher boarded with the scholars. My father Isaac Moore, taught at this school when a young man. The first schools were called "Open Schools." Everyone spelled and read aloud.

The first Church in Edroy Community was built on Stony Creek and called Hanlin Chapel. It is a hewed log building. Cracks Chinked and daubed, shooed shingle roof, side galleries, seats, --long benches with slot backs, door in one end

of building, elevated pulpit in other end, two small 12 light windows on sides. Some years ago the side galleries were taken out and the building ceiled. Benches were taken out and chairs put in. This church is still in use and was built in 1835; as the records show it was deeded July 4, 1835.

Edray Church was built in 1863 E. D. King was the contractor and builder. Contract price above foundation \$700.00. For this work Lakin and Peters furnished about twenty thousand feet of lumber from their mill at Clover Lick, delivered at the Gay Siding; which is now the Fair Grounds, for ten dollars per thousand white pine lumber. Everything summed up, all told, the Edray church cost \$2032.25 .

Edray Post Office was the first post office in Edray Community.

When looking for a name, Mrs. Eliza Moore, mother of the late George P. Moore being a Bible reader, suggested a Bible name and said "Call the post office Edrei". Leaving off the ei and adding ry making Edray the name of the first post office. This office was established about 1850. As soon as Geo. P. Moore was of age, he became post master and continued to be until his death in 1922. He was the oldest post master in the U. S. A.

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